



# Wilmington Journal.

WILMINGTON, N. C.,  
FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1876.

## A MUCH NEEDED COMPILATION.

The New York *Public* is apprised in the rush of later exposures of the cases of McKee and Maguire, the St. Louis whisky ring convicts, who after failing in their attempt to procure new trials have been sentenced—Maguire to six months imprisonment and a fine of five thousand dollars—may be forgotten. McKee, Maguire, Avery, Joyce and McDonald were unfortunate in relying too much on Babcock's influence with the administration, and in being brought to trial before Babcock's complicity in the conspiracy became so manifest that the President and Attorney General Pierrepont were obliged to interpose to put a stop to the convictions. In fact, the conviction of these men looks very much like treason on the part of Babcock, who could not have been ignorant of their danger. Had Babcock, instead of playing innocent, as he did in the commencement of the St. Louis trials, come up to the scratch as a man, made known his cause with his confederates, and demanded the letter which the President afterwards ordered Pierrepont to write, warning witnesses against testifying in the whisky case, and brought to bear upon their trials the influence of the government which he afterwards invoked so successfully in his own case, the ring-leaders who are now pining in the seclusion of the penitentiary would to day be enjoying with Babcock, Boss Shepherd, Harrington, Williams and the rest of the ring their ill-gotten gains and prosecuting new schemes of plunder in Washington. They have learned by sad experience the meaning of the adage "put not your trust in Babcock," and must content themselves with the hope of Executive clemency between now and the fourth of March next, the realization of which hope depends on their keeping close mouths.

But the *Public* is right in its surmise that in the rush of later and more astounding exposures of Radical knavery in higher administration circles, such minor villainies as those of the whisky ring will be overlooked by the public. The truth is, it is taxation that capacity of the press and the comprehension of the people to keep up the daily record of corruption and baseness which is being developed in every department of the government. It is impossible for the people to bear in memory the almost infinite number of frauds, defalcations, embezzlements, bribes, forgeries, and cases of official malfeasance, corruption, peculation and plunder that have been brought to light within the last twelve months. From the disclosure of the Credit-Mobilier swindle down to the Belknap bribery, every official fraud has been exposed to sink in infamy all of the administrations from the time of Washington to the present day; and yet there are few who, if called to account, would be able to enumerate one-half of them. Fraud after fraud and crime after crime have followed in such quick succession, villainy on villain's head accumulating, until the record has not only shocked credulity but literally wearied the public. The indication is, that the masses of the country will come in time to loose all faith and confidence in public men and all respect for government.

It would be a good office for some one who has the data at command to compile an expert history in biling from Baltimore, who has made a careful examination of the work done by the government bndary, and gives it as his opinion that the government has a swindle year on the cost of material alone. The uniform practice of Clapp has been to have all leather tilled to him as sheep, low sheep and low calf, when, in point of fact, no such material was ever purchased.

The late chief clerk of the General Land Office, L. K. Lippincott, "Grace-Groves' husband, who was summarily dismissed by Secretary Chandler two weeks ago for defrauding the government by means of fraudulent Chippewa land scrip, is missing, and efforts to ascertain his whereabouts have failed. Lippincott was indicted by the District grand jury, but before he could be arrested fled, and is supposed to have taken refuge in some foreign country. A full investigation of Lippincott's baseness shows that he was paid about \$25,000 per passing one thousand fraudulent claims for Chippewa land scrip through the General Land Office.

The Memphis Appeal says that the president of the National Capital, by the refusal of Kilrain to implicate him, for which he is now undergoing imprisonment, are ugly facts, which no honest man can look squarely in the face and feel proud of. American citizenship can and does cover a multitude of sins, but even the power of this potent title to responsibility and recognition may be exhausted, and we confess that recent events have drawn largely upon its resources.

We herewith call from one or two of our exchanges some facts proved and reports current for one day at the capital, and submit to any candid mind what impression these things afford to ascertain his whereabouts. I remain your obedient servant,

G. E. MILLS.

**A Centennial Date.**

The Memphis Appeal says the premium centennial date, in its beautiful dress of blue silk, golden hoops and roses of national colors, continues to sell at the room of the Cotton Exchange. A number of ladies, so pronounced for the honest economical administration of the national government, it will be remembered, were often seen in the ranks of the patriotic orators of the Centennial, and good imitations of them are to be had in the city.

And on the other hand, the incident was skillfully used by Harrington's lawyers as an opportunity to have a trial at the reception at the White House, and during the reception was in long conversation with the President. The impropriety of the Chief Magistrate of a nation placing himself in such a position, and giving himself a full day to the social functions of the country, was an old story, and it was quite natural that it was not mentioned.

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**THE COMING CANVASS.**

We are glad to see that in many counties the Democratic masses have met for organization, and are clearing the decks for the approaching conflict. Appreciating the importance and magnitude of the canvass our people are determined to begin in time and labor faithfully until the end. The Executive Committee has set the example in calling the State convention at an early day, which the Congressional District committees are wisely following, so that by the first of July we shall have our forces fully drawn up in line of battle under their chosen leaders. Candidates for President, Vice-President, Governor, Congress, and in a great measure, county officers will be in the field. This will give four months for the campaign; not a day too long when we consider the vast interests at stake.

There are upwards of two thousand officers to be elected in North Carolina, embracing every one from Governor to the most insignificant local officers, except Judges and Superior Court Clerks. Upon the Legislature will devolve the election of a United States Senator.

Then, too, ten electors for President and Vice-President of the United States are to be chosen, and it is believed the contest will be so close that North Carolina's vote will turn the scale, and the result of that great contest may depend upon the result in this State.

And again, the amendments to the Constitution are to be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection at the same time. This really is the most important question which the freemen of North Carolina will be called upon to settle. Many of the proposed amendments will bring relief to an oppressed people from burdens which, during the present generation there is no other hope of escape—burdens too grievous to be borne.

When then we calmly consider the vast and varied vital interests at stake we cannot begin the work too soon, nor can we labor too earnestly or too faithfully.

Nor can we be too particular in nominating our candidates from the highest to the lowest. Our best and ablest men must be put forward. The day of small men has passed. We want great big men, men of character, men of courage, men of integrity and intelligence. The country is on the verge of ruin through the corruption and ignorance of its officials, and the honest people everywhere demand reform and retribution. We must show by the candidate we put forward that we are in earnest in our purpose to reform the government. The great heart of the nation is honest, and honest men and their government is demanded.

It behoves us therefore to begin our work at once, and let us be sure that we do it thoroughly.

**THE NEXT SENATE.**  
The Presidential election is not the only important matter that will claim the attention of the Democratic party this fall. The political complexion of the Senate is second only to the election of the President, and if the party is wise this is not beyond reasonable expectation.

The present Senate consists of seventy-three members, there being a vacancy from Louisiana, of which forty-three are Republicans, and thirty Democrats. This count gives both of California, to the Democrats and the other independents to the Republicans.

The terms of twenty-six Senators expire on the 3d of March next, of which seventeen are Republicans and nine Democrats, besides the vacancy from Louisiana to be filled. Of the seventeen Republicans that are quite sure of returning their friends from Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Carolina, and have already elected Republican Legislatures in New Hampshire and Rhode Island, this would give them thirty-six Senators.

The Democrats have or will return all of the nine whose terms expire, and have already gained a senator in Mississippi and secured a Democratic Legislature in Texas and will send a Democrat in place of Hamilton, Republican. In Arkansas and New Jersey their chances are almost certain of sending Democrats, while in Louisiana a Democratic triumph will secure two Senators. This would give that party thirty-six Senators.

The two remaining Senators come from the doubtful States of Illinois and Wisconsin, the result in those States depending very greatly upon the candidates for President on the National tickets of both parties.

In any event the political complexion of the next Senate presents a question well worth the attention of party leaders and party conventions.

Washington speculations in April as to how the Cincinnati Convention is going to vote in June are rather curios than valuable; but there are newspaper readers who find interest in them notwithstanding. Mr. Blaine's friends are claiming 324 votes for him on the first ballot—which is absurd—Mr. Morton's friends 266—which is also absurd—leaving the residue to be divided between Bristow, Hayes, Hartranft, Washburne, Conkling and the "Great Unknown." The guess of the Tribune's "staff" gentleman at the capital is: Blaine 256, Morton 188, Hartranft 58, Hayes 44, Conkling from 50 to 68, Bristow less than 75. He concedes Blaine New Hampshire, Rhode Island, 18 votes from Massachusetts and several Western and Pacific coast delegations which are still very much in the bush, so to speak; he gives Bristow, Kentuck, Vermont, Connecticut, part of Massachusetts, a few votes from New York, and possibly South Carolina. Bristow, he thinks, will prove "either a very weak candidate or an irresistible one;" the present indications are, viewed from a Washington point, point to Mr. Blaine; Morton will touch his maximum on the first ballot; Hayes is just a possibility; a triple alliance of Cameron, Morton and Conkling may force the nomination of a new man—Wheeler, of New York, for instance.

**THE IMPEACHMENT.**  
Yesterday was the day fixed by the Senate to begin the impeachment trial of Gen. William W. Belknap, late Secretary of War, and the eyes of the whole country will be eagerly turned to that body, watching with impatient anxiety the result of the trial. For the first time in the history of the country has it been disagreed by an official so high in authority, and the people very naturally await with much interest to ascertain whether the national honor is to be maintained, or whether the confessed criminal is to find shelter and protection behind the shield of the framers and corruption of the administration.

**The New York Herald** gives Senator Bayard a handsome boost as a Centennial candidate. The *Herald* says he has never made a political mistake or incurred a political misfortune in his life, and he is laying bare the frame and corruption of the administration.

His ideas of architecture were peculiar. Iron was his favorite material and he used it gaudily, and in order to adapt the structure to all its purposes, and to secure the comfort of all within. When he built a house for another—as his marble palace in Fifth avenue, which he playfully called "Belknap's Castle"—he said it was a different master. He built that, he used to say, merely to please her. That is the costliest of the houses in America, and she is collection. It is one of the finest in the United States. She is married young, and loves her wife like a child.

Throughout his business career Mr. Stewart has been cautious, practical, and, according to the common apperception, especially companionable. What he has learned has come not so much from strict adherence to principle, if not carried out, in all the merchantile communities. So, too, such as any young man of his trade would have done, he has got his salary. We hope he will. The attempted reduction is a miserable piece of demagogery.

From the New Haven Palladium (Rep):

It is thought in well informed circles at Washington that the President will be compelled to conduct no justice of his own.

From the Hartford Times (Dem):

It is gratifying to be told by Mr. Fish that Steinberger is ruling the country of the Islands on his own hook, and not as a representative of the United States.

From the Philadelphia Times (Ind):

It is Blaine's turn now. He has thus far escaped remarkably well, but his good luck should continue till midsummer was too much to expect, and we see what effect this will have upon Blaine's show.

From the Cincinnati Gazette (Rep):

The Republican party is in order to succeed, must have an unexceptional candidate. Such a candidate Mr. Blaine is not.

From the Troy Whig (Rep):

President Grant is just becoming acquainted with the character of his Administration, and he has lived in the group of flatterers and thought it the world.

From the Omaha Bee (Ind):

A careful canvass of the political views of Nebraska politicians brings forth one of the following three as Nebraska's probable choice for the Presidency: Bristow, Blaine and Conkling.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch (Rep):

Why didn't President Grant, in the course of his tour, go to some decent pending minister and selected his private secretaries, ministers, &c., therefrom? This would have been the proper thing to do.

From the Standard (Ind):

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From the Chicago Tribune:

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From the New York Tribune:

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